



The Canal Zone Philatelist



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President's Report

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Private Vending Machine Stamp Booklets

by Gary B. Weiss

This past year I was lucky enough to visit two great stamp shows: **Washington 2006** and the **APS Stamp Show** in Chicago. At these shows I was able to attend our two CZSG meetings, meet old friends while making some new ones, view some of the leading Canal Zone exhibits and spend a great deal of time at the stamp dealer's tables. In 2007 we will have a large number of meetings at major stamp shows across the United States and I look forward to meeting more of our members while attending some of them.

New on our Website

With this issue you should be receiving the latest printed update to our *Canal Zone Philatelist Index*. For the first time it will also be available on our website as a searchable PDF file. PDF files can be read with *Adobe Reader*, a free program available from www.adobe.com. Since the Index will be online you will be able to search it for any text and if you want you can print it, make the print larger or even have it read to you.

The Canal Zone Philatelist Online

I have been interested in changing more of our documentation to digital format and lately I have started scanning back issues of the *Canal Zone Philatelist*. I took Vol. 42, No. 3 as my test copy and have now produced our first searchable digital version. Vol. 42, No. 3 will be available on

(continued on page 37)



While the two items described in this note cannot be authenticated/expertized, they are probably genuine and represent a previously unrecognized area of Canal Zone philately. Confirmation of the existence of these items may be able to be provided by some of our older members who lived in the Zone during this time period. They were obtained many years ago by a serious Panama collector from a now deceased collector who said that these were dispensed from a machine in the Zone.

For most of us, purchasing of stamps is done at the post office. Occasionally, especially when traveling (tourists to mail post cards home), one pays a small premium and buys a few (coil) stamps from a privately owned, coin operated stamp dispenser. As the Canal Zone did not

issue coils until 1960, prior to that time, other methods were needed to sell stamps to tourists. In the United States, stamps have been dispensed in small envelopes and in cardboard folders.

The two "booklets" are unmarked and folded measure 46 by 25 mm. On opening, one booklet contains a strip of three 3¢ stamps, Scott No. 117. This most likely was sold for 10¢, a penny profit for the vendor. This was the first class rate until 1959. The other booklet contains two 1¢ stamps, Scott No. 105 and one 2¢, Scott No. 138 (above). This was probably sold for 5¢, an excellent profit. As this 2¢ stamp was issued in 1954, the time that these booklets were distributed is between 1954 and 1959. Other booklets could exist from earlier or later periods with different contents.

CZSG Regional Meetings

Aripex 2007, Sat. Jan 20th '07, Tucson Convention Center, Tucson, AZ.

SANDICAL 2007, Jan 27th, Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny, Mesa Rd., San Diego, CA.

APS AmeriStamp Expo 2007, Feb 21st, Riverside Convention Center, Riverside, CA.

SEE MEETING PROGRAM FOR TIME.

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One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write, phone, or FAX the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

**Secretary's Report
John C. Smith
408 Redwood Ln.**

**2007 Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps
by Jim Crumpacker**

The 2007 Scott Specialized Catalogue is now available for purchase. Only minor changes from last year took place in Canal Zone pricing. Of about 25 total price changes some 20 were auction driven, all increases.

There are a couple of additions, with prices now entered for FDC's of Scott U6 and U7 in the postal stationery segment. The recently completed CZSG Mail Sale would seem to confirm the NH stamps values which were added for many sets in 2006; these went almost unchanged in the 2007 catalogue.

Shown below are a sampling of the moves. Listings are for OG with NH/H status per Scott's pricing policy. The contributors and staff at Scott's can be proud of the 2007 edition.

Scott #	2006	2007
1	\$ 550.00	\$ 600.00
12e, PANAMA inverted & bar at bottom, used	1400.00	1750.00
19 on cover	225.00	250.00
55e, booklet pane of 6	1750.00	2250.00
C2	75.00	70.00
J20 on cover	120.00	300.00

Special Auction Report by Jim Crumpacker

A superlative sale of 206 lots of Canal Zone philately was made by the HR Harmer firm of West Caldwell, NJ on Sept. 27, 2006. A fair number of the greater rarities were offered and some of peerless condition as well. Reserves were evidently high as more than 10% of the lots did not sell.

Some all-time price highs (at least according to my lengthy records) were set. The first price noted below is hammer plus commission, followed in parenthesis by the catalog value from the 2006 Scott's.

- 1, strip of 3 VF w/ nat. se on VF cover 7/2/04 La Boca to Colon \$1438 (\$1500)
- 2, OG, H, F-VF \$403 (\$250)
- 9c, CANAL ZONE inverted, used, F \$4025 (\$3750)
- 10, toned o/w F on F cover Crist. 9/27/05 w/ Hs-2 to US \$173 (\$17.50)
- 11b, PANAMA overprint inverted, bar at bottom, OG, H, VF+ \$805 (\$475)
- 12c, CANAL ZONE double, OG, H, F-VF \$920 (\$700)

- 13 var., right PANAMA 5mm below bar, OG, H, F-VF in bl. 4 w/ 3 normals \$196 (\$218)
- 14a, ZONE antique, OG (pn), H, F \$719 (\$1150)
- 20c, "8 cts." omitted, no gum, VF margin pair w/ full Hamilton Bank Note imprint on bottom margin \$2185 (\$550)
- 22g, inverted center w/ overprint reading up, OG, H, VF+ margin copy w/ part imprint \$8050 (\$3500)
- 23c, double overprint, OG, H, F-VF \$719 (\$525)
- 26 var., imperforate bottom margin, OG, H, XF (CZSG 26.1) \$690 (\$n/a)
- 31c, complete booklet of 4 panes on lemon stock, CZSG 31c.2, OG, NH (couple w/ short perfs 1 side), F \$1955 (\$2300)
- 36a, "10 cts." inverted, OG, H, XF \$431 (\$325)
- 38b, booklet pane of 6, imperf. margins, OG, NH, VF-XF \$920 (\$625)
- 39d, overprint reading down, OG, H, VF \$253 (\$175)
- 39f, booklet pane of 6, inverted center and overprint reading down, OG, NH trimmed by knife 1 side o/w VF

- single pane still in original booklet \$7475 (\$8000)
- 46b, double overprint, one reads ZONE CANAL, OG, H, almost VF w/ margin \$2990 (\$1750)
- 47, used, VF+ \$161 (\$100)
- 56a, CANAL ZONE double, OG, H, F \$719 (\$600)
- 60b, complete booklet of 4 panes, OG (light dist. from interl.) NH, a cover crease o/w F-VF \$3450 (\$4000)
- 67, F on VF ppc Balb. Hts. 3/31/24 to US \$253 (\$350)
- 84a, CANAL only, OG, H, VF w/ top margin \$3335 (\$2250)
- 84b, ZONE CANAL, OG, H, XF \$633 (\$500)
- 95, OG, H, VF \$265 (\$125)
- 101a, complete booklet of 2 panes, OG, NH, VF \$551 (\$320)
- C2, OG, NH, VF \$63 (\$120)
- J2, OG, H, VF \$334 (\$250)
- U3, unused entire, light overall toning o/w VF \$1265 (\$700)
- U5, unused entire, VF \$374 (\$200)
- UX2, FDC, used Pedro Miguel 3/3/08 to U.S., corner creases o/w VF \$1553
- UX5, unused entire, splotchy light toning o/w VF \$1380 (\$1100)

CZSG 2006 Mail Sale Report by Jim Crumpacker

The 2006 CZSG Mail Sale closed in October with 581 lots having been available for bid. The Sale represented yet another proof that common material languishes and fresh items and perfection sells. Many of the error stamps realized what I would have expected at public auction and without any buyers' commission, which we have never had at our annual Sales. Plate blocks, precancel singles and perfin were hot, and any condition rarity realized a price to gladden the hearts and wallets of the consignors.

Sale manager Tom Brougham put the Sale up on the internet again this year, our thanks to him for his much appreciated efforts.

Twenty-five or so of the most interesting results are shown below. With no commission, the hammer price is given first and is followed in parenthesis by the assigned value from the 2006 Scott's Specialized.

- 1, used, VF \$380

- 5, dist. TG, H, a crease, has pl. #2221-B, new and unreported pl. #, \$440 (\$n/a)
- 15, OG, minor paper fragments adhere, H, F-VF \$1350 (\$2600)
- 22e, double overprint, no gum, 6.75mm spacing, almost VF \$210 (\$275)
- 32a, vert. pair imperf horiz., OG (sl. trop.), H, VF \$800 (\$1000)
- 48, OG (very sl. trop.), NH, F-VF 1st pr. w/ margin \$380 (\$500)
- 57, OG (very sl. trop.), NH, VF \$340 (\$300)
- 59, OG, H, F-VF \$170 (\$175)
- 60a, CANAL double, OG (lt. trop), H, VF+ w/ margin \$2250 (\$2500)
- 71c & 71d, CANAL only and ZONE CANAL, TG, NH (HR in selvage), F-VF in vert. pair w/ margin \$1850 (\$2250)
- 101a, booklet pane of 6, OG, NH, VF \$115 (\$160)
- C2, used, VF \$50 (\$52.50)
- J20, OG, NH, VF+, 1st or 3rd pr., \$340 (\$150)
- 91 pb. 6, #18022-T, OG, stamps NH, HM in selv. with bends and staple hole in selv. also, F \$170 (\$190)

- C13, used, nat. se., PSN perfin, VF \$64 (\$n/a)
- O8, OG, NH, F \$320 (\$650)
- Specimens set of 7 unissued "Arms" stamps, all OG, NH, F-VF \$280 (\$n/a)
- U5, (UPSS U5a, "falling feather" var.) 1/5/23 to Balb. Hts., lt. toning and a mild bend o/w F \$160 (UPSS \$250)
- UF1a, (UPSS R4) unused entire w/ usual paper creases rev. only, VF \$1400 (\$1300)
- UX6, (UPSS S13) used Gatun 2/3/25 to Crist., HM rev. and 2 tiny ink marks one edge o/w F-VF \$1050 (\$1100)
- UX13 var., (UPSS 22a) 1 cent indicia inverted at LL, mint entire, VF \$850 (UPSS \$750)
- 9, F-VF on VF ppc, La Boca Hs-2 10/16/05 to U.S., \$56 (\$n/a)
- 16b, VG on F-VF leather ppc, Paraiso 12/26/06 \$135 (\$n/a)
- Zeppelin flight, Crist. 5/22/30, w/ C1(F), C3 pair (VG), C4x2 (F-VF) on VF card w/ U.S. C13 added, via NYC to Germany with all proper marks \$1400 (\$n/a)

The Panama Line

By David J. Leeds and
Alan P. Bentz

The following article is the second of a series on the history of the Panama Line.

Panama Railroad Steamship Line (PRRSSL) Ships

The Panama Railroad Steamship Line (PRRSSL) was started in 1896, with the U.S. Government taking control in May 1904. At that time the first three ships of the new fleet were acquired. The *Finance* and *Advance*, screw steamers of 2600 grt, built in 1883 and 1882 respectively, were purchased from the United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Company.

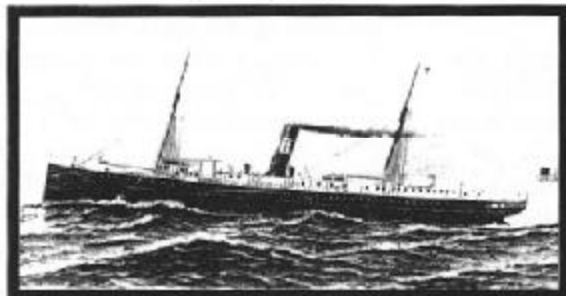


Fig. 9. SS *Advance*

The third ship acquired was the *Allianca* (3905 grt) built in Chester, PA in 1886. (The name is Portuguese for Alliance). The *Allianca* was the first ocean going passenger ship to pass through any of the Canal lock systems. On June 8, 1914, it steamed through Gatun Locks to Gatun Lake – a full two months before the SS *Ancon* made the first official transit of the Panama Canal.

The Appendix lists details on major ships used in Panama Canal service [4-7]. Some of them became well known, especially to those involved in the construction days of the canal. The ships were used as inexpensive transportation between the Zone and Eastern Seaboard ports. Early ships

– including freighters – in service before American construction started, were almost unknown to Canal Zone residents and collectors.

In 1905, *Havana* and *Mexico* were acquired from the Ward Line and renamed *Panama* and *Colon*. The *Panama* is shown in Fig 10. In 1908 the *Cristobal* (former *Tremont*), and *Ancon* were added to the fleet.

The *Cristobal* made a test transit over the entire length of the Canal on August 3, 1914. During the trip, a locomotive motor was ruined, and a cable snapped. Following those incidents the decision was made to have a professional pilot force to guide the ships through the Canal. Similar tests were made by *Advance* on the Aug. 9th, and *Panama* on the

Aug. 11th, before the *Ancon* officially opened the canal on Aug. 15, 1914 as the first steamship in commercial service, with Capt. John A. Constantine as the first member of the elite pilot's group. The *Ancon's* transit is depicted in Fig. 12.

During its historic trip for the official opening of the Panama Canal, the *Ancon* carried 200 passengers, and freight destined for Balboa. The transit from Pier 9 in Cristobal to the end of the dredged channel five miles out in the Bay of Panama took nine hours and 40 minutes.

On May 12, 1917, Congress passed a Joint Resolution allowing the U.S. to take possession and title of any vessel of an enemy state operating within its territory. On June 30, 1917,



Fig. 12. SS *Ancon* during first transit of the Canal depicted in commemorative stamps (Panama C448, U.S. 3163f)



Fig. 11. SS *Cristobal* in Gatun Locks (CZ 51)

the order was given to seize four German steamships at the Atlantic terminal of the Panama Canal. Two of them are shown in Fig. 14. They were formerly owned by the Hamburg American Line. The new owner was the Panama Railroad Steamship Co. They are shown in the Balboa drydock, which was built to handle any vessel that could transit the Panama



Fig. 10. SS *Panama* in Culebra Cut (CZ 49 and CZ50)



Fig. 13. SS *Ancon* under way

(Continued on next page)



Fig. 14. Captured German vessels in Balboa Drydock (CZ 58)

Canal (1000 feet long and 110 feet wide – identical to the locks). Near-est is the *Grunewald*. She emerged as the SS *General G. W. Goethals*. The *Prinz Sigismund* is behind her and emerged as the SS *General W.C. Gorgas*. Both vessels carried troops and cargo between Europe and the U.S., helping the American war effort during and after WWI.

To be continued.

Bibliography

- [4] Private communications from David Zemer, Adrian (Kibby) Bouché, and Robert Karrer
- [5] *Record of American and Foreign Shipping* (American Lloyd's Register) Published annually by American Bureau of Shipping.
- [6] *Passenger Ships of the World – Past and Present* by Eugene W. Smith, Pub. By George H. Dean Co., Boston (ca. 1968)
- [7] *Merchant Vessels of the United States* (45th Annual List 1913) – Dept. of commerce.
- [8] *First Transits of the Panama Canal* by James L. Shaw in *Steamboat Bill*, Fall 1989.

APPENDIX

List of Vessels – Panama Lines

Panama Rail Road Co. - Colombia Line (1893)

Vessel	Built	Yrs of Service	Original Line
<i>Adriatic*</i>	1857	1859-1863	Collins Line
<i>Atlantic</i>	1849	1859-1863	Collins Line
<i>Baltic</i>	1850	1859-1863	Collins Line
Panama Rail Road Steamship Line (1896)			
<i>Alliance</i>	1886	1895-1922	U.S. Brazil Mail S.S. Co.
<i>Advance</i>	1882-3	1904-1935	U.S. Brazil Mail S.S. Co.
<i>Finance</i>	1883	1904-1908*	U.S. Brazil Mail S.S. Co.
<i>Colon</i>	1899	1905-1924	Ward Line (Ex Mexico)
<i>Panama</i>	1898	1905-1927	Ward Line (Ex Havana)
<i>Ancona</i>	1902	1909-1939	Boston Steamship Co. (Ex Shawmut)
<i>Cristobal*</i>	1902	1909-1939	Boston Steamship Co. (Ex Tremont)
<i>Ulysses</i>	1915	1915-1928	Panama Railroad Co.
<i>General O.H. Ernst</i>		1917-1919	Hamburg-American Line (Ex Sachsenwald)
<i>General H. F. Hodges</i>		1917-1919	Hamburg-America Line (Ex Saroia)
<i>Gen. G. W. Goethals</i>	1911	1917-1919	Hamburg-America Line (Ex Grunewald)
<i>Gen. W. C. Gorgas</i>	1902	1917-1919	Hamburg-America Line (Ex Prinz Sigismund)
<i>Guayaquil</i>	1919	1925-1939	Ex Lake Fanquier (Shipping Board)
<i>Buenaventura</i>	1919	1923-1939	Ex Lake Flattery (Shipping Board)
<i>Panama*</i>	1939	1939-41, 1946-57	Panama Rail Road Steamship Co.
<i>Ancon*</i>	1939	1939-41, 1946-57	Panama Rail Road Steamship Co.
<i>Cristobal</i>	1939	1939-41, 1946-57	Panama Rail Road Steamship Co.

* Sunk in collision with White Star *Georgic*. *Ships that have appeared on one or more stamps. Note: This list is comprised only of those ships registered under the Panama Rail Road Company (or Isthmian Canal Commission), or the Panama Rail Road Steamship Line in the "American Lloyd's Register." There were many name changes and confusion of spellings – even in the Register, but they have been carefully sorted out.

President's Report

(Continued from page 33)

our website as a sample of things to come and I invite you to test it. You will be able to search for any text and find all references to it. As with our digital *CZP Index* you will be able to increase the size of the characters and if you want to (go to VIEW at the top of the page then down to READ OUT LOAD) Adobe Reader will read the scanned pages out loud to you if you have speakers or headphones. The oral version is not perfect but you might want to give it a try.

During the year, I will be scanning other versions, beginning with Volume 1 and sending them to our webmaster Tom Brougham, to be loaded

onto our website. When we start to catch up to the present time we expect to have a time delay of 3 to 5 years between issuing the printed version and loading it in digital format on our website. As the website version will be readable by anyone connected to the internet we will have several years delay to encourage our members to keep their dues current.

Privacy and the online Canal Zone Philatelists

In my test digital version that will be on our website, I have deleted the names and addresses of members that appear on page 22. This is to protect our members privacy. Once we

load digital material on our website it will become available to anyone including all of the search engines like Google. When these search engines find new material online they save it on their own databases so even if text is changed or edited the previous versions will still be available to anyone (with good or bad intentions) who has Internet access.

I hope that you will take the time to test the digital versions of both the *Canal Zone Philatelist Index* and *Canal Zone Philatelist* on our website. Please feel free to send Tom Brougham, any board members, or myself your comments or suggestions.

Fake Overprints on Canal Zone Stamps

By Richard D. Bates, Jr.
Overprinted U.S. Issues -
1924 - 1933

Part VIII - Sharp A Overprints - Poor Quality

Examples on Common Stamps

Though there are many examples of fakes of CANAL ZONE overprints on U.S. stamps that are designed to look like expensive errors, simple impersonators of the basic stamps exist too. These come in many variations, but fall into the general class of fake overprints reading CANAL ZONE designed to mimic the basic varieties. These can be found in dealer's stocks, in old-time collections, and now on the internet, through services like ebay. They also exist as bogus examples of errors that never existed and as fakes of errors that are known.

The appropriate dimensions for genuine sharp A overprints have been reviewed previously, and are repeated below.

Characteristics of Sharp A Overprints

height of letters in overprint: 2.2 - 2.4 mm
length of CANAL overprint: 11.5 mm
length of ZONE overprint: 9.0 mm
spacing between CANAL and ZONE:
variable, most commonly 9.0 mm

The CANAL overprint should be 11.5 mm in length. On most printings of most sharp A overprinted U.S. stamps, the spacing between the bottom of CANAL and the top of ZONE is 9.0 mm, though variations in the spacing between CANAL and ZONE, either for specific printings of individual Scott numbers or known variations for specific positions on individual settings, are well known and can be found in the CHECK LIST at the end of *Canal Zone Stamps*.

Though this writer's instinct is always to start out with correct dimensions with which to compare a possible fake, the first group of fake overprints fall into a category of those that are so poor they should fool no one, and measurements are seldom required. Several examples of these poor fakes are reviewed in this article.

First, the examples have to be on a correct U.S. stamp, and on the correct U.S. stamp. This seemingly confusing



Fig. 1. Four cent Martha Washington stamp that was never overprinted

statement is easily unraveled. Some examples exist with fake CANAL ZONE overprints on U.S. stamps that were never overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. The example shown in Fig. 1, is a 4 cent Martha Washington Scott No. 601. The 4 cent value of the 1922-25 series was never overprinted for use in the Canal Zone. Thus, no matter how good the overprint may seem, it cannot be genuine. In the example in Fig. 1, the overprint is not even a close imitation of the genuine sharp A overprint, nor of a flat A overprint for that matter.

A second subset of "incorrect" overprints involves values that were overprinted for use in the Zone, but the person preparing the fake was not careful to use an example of the U.S. stamp printed on the correct press or with the correct gauge perforations. For example, overprints on the one cent, two cent, five cent, and ten cent can be found on stamps printed on both the flat and rotary press. But the one cent flat plate stamp is known with only the flat A overprint. The example in Fig. 2 is a flat plate printing, in dark green, which was not overprinted with the sharp A CANAL



Fig. 2. One cent - flat plate stamp with poor quality overprint

ZONE as is the one in Fig. 2 with a sharp A overprint. Only the rotary press version of the one cent stamp is known with a sharp A overprint. Thus this example cannot be genuine no matter how good the overprint looks. In this case, however, the fake CANAL ZONE overprint is of very poor quality, with a very small CANAL ZONE spacing of 5.0 mm.



Fig. 3. Seventeen and twenty cent flat plate stamps with poor quality overprint

Poor quality overprints like this can also be found on the correct U.S. stamps for many values in this series, as is illustrated in Fig. 3. This shows very poor quality fake overprints on the 17 and 20 cent varieties. Figure



Fig. 4. Fifteen cent flat plate stamp

4 shows a 15 cent example with a fake overprint, which measures 8.8 mm from CANAL to ZONE and with the length of the CANAL 10.4 mm. Like many of the fake overprints in this grouping, the L in CANAL is missing the serif at lower left. This includes the example in Fig. 5. The



Fig. 5. 20 cent with fake overprint

stamp in this figure also illustrates the common observation in these poor quality fakes that the overprint is at a slight angle, or with the CANAL and ZONE not parallel to one another, or with the bottoms of the letters in each word not well aligned horizontally, or with all of the above.

A second grouping of relatively poor quality fakes on this series are characterized by ink that bleeds into the paper, giving a fuzzy edge to the overprint. Genuine examples do not show this effect. The presence of spreading of the ink of the overprint as it soaks into the paper, even if on only one or two of the letters, is a quick sign of a fake overprint. The example shown in Fig. 6 is a 14 cent value with an overprint with a 10.7 mm CANAL and 8.3 mm CANAL



Fig. 6. 14 cent with overprint that bleeds into the paper

to ZONE, neither being the correct measurement for a genuine example. The generally poor appearance of the overprint, however, makes it unlikely to fool any collector.

Two other examples of fakes that show bleeding of the overprint are shown in Fig. 7. Both show a smaller CANAL to ZONE spacing of 8.5 mm.



Fig. 7. Three and twenty cent examples with overprint that bleeds

significantly less than the normal. In addition, the length of the CANAL overprint is about 10.5 mm, shorter than the genuine case.

In the next article in this series, examples with overprints that are much better imitators of the genuine overprint will be examined.

Auctions

by Jim Crumpacker

The vast majority of the interesting Canal Zone lots presented at public auction in the third quarter, July 1-Sept. 30, 2006 were offered by HR Harmer on Sept. 27. That sale was of such importance as to be the subject of a separate report in this issue.

Still, there were other items of interest and a few are shown below. The final sale price of hammer plus

commission is listed first and is followed in parenthesis by the catalog value from the 2006 *Scott's*.

15, OG, H, F-VF \$2070 (\$2600)
Bennett
47, OG, HR, F+ to VF \$2760 (\$3250)
Bennett
48, OG, H, almost VF \$259 (\$500)
Bennett
67, OG (a few dry spots), NH, VF for
this \$604 (\$500)
Regency-Superior

J2, OG, H, F-VF \$196 (\$250)
Regency-Superior

Here are the names and addresses of the two auction houses which offered these lots.

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St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

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